



Scrub Jay, Illustration from the book

in many areas across the continent. His own experiences, especially in the Pacific Northwest, give this book a personal touch which, like the illustrations, illuminates the intelligence and personable nature of these birds. One is at once informed and entertained, and the book is hard to put down.

It is the art work that will first catch the reader's eye. At least every second page has an illustration, and many of them spill over on to the page facing. These black-and-white drawings portray their subjects in all the diversity of their activities and behaviour. What Angell has achieved here is a distillation of the essence of corvid life, and a joyous portrayal of

the business of being a bird. Details are not always anatomically correct, and at times the perspective is startling (as in the "Raven chasing Goshawk") but these faults are easily overlooked in the artist's total achievement.

The researcher looking for a mine of solid information on the North American Corvidae will have to look elsewhere, as in Derek Goodwin's *Crows of the World* (New York 1976). For the birder and naturalist curious about crows and their kind this is a superb introduction to the family, one certain to make the observer more observant when he or she next encounters a member of this diverse family. The first crow of spring will no longer be the only one to hold your interest after you read this book. Highly recommended. — Reviewed by *Bob Kreba*, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina, Saskatchewan.

WILD COFFEE AND TEA SUBSTITUTES OF CANADA

ADAM SZCZAWINSKI and NANCY TURNER. 1978. National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario. 111 p. \$6.95.

This book is a good field guide to native plants that can be steeped and brewed for beverages. Each of 37 species is described under the following headings — how to recognize, where to find, warnings and necessary cautions, and how to use (sometimes with recipes). The book also tells how these plants were used in the past for beverage and medicinal purposes.

The introduction sketches the history of coffee and tea as well as

the various substitutes. It tells how to gather and prepare these plants, and urges caution in identifying them.

Even for a person like myself who has smelled, tasted, nibbled and munched through many of these native gastronomical delights, this publication has some new information. I would recommend it to any beginner outdoor gourmet who already has a good knowledge of plants. Those unfamiliar with plants will need a knowledgeable friend to get the most out of this book.

Two last words: "Good sipping."
— Reviewed by *Frank Switzer*, 1301 Shannon Road, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4S 5K9.

THE COMPLETE OUTFITTING AND SOURCE BOOK FOR BIRD WATCHING

MICHAEL SCOFIELD, 1978. The Great Outdoors Trading Company, Marshall, Calif. 192 pp. \$6.95.

This book answers a multitude of questions for the novice birdwatcher, beginning with the basic one posed in the introduction: "Why bother with birds?"

A chapter on the history of bird watching takes us back to the first representation of a bird, probably the common or European Crane, scratched on the wall of a cave in the Pyrenees in Paleolithic times, and entertains us with anecdotes about famous birdwatchers from Aristophanes to Roger Tory Peterson.

There are useful and detailed chapters on buying equipment. To take one example, the "Binocular

Buying Guide" has pictures and descriptions of 43 types of binoculars. One section deals with publications (periodicals and books) and another with clubs and organizations, how they originated and how to decide which to join. Clubs are listed for each state in the U.S.A. and for all Canadian provinces except New Brunswick and P.E.I., and for 23 countries outside North America, from Australia to Zambia. Next, the best birding sites are identified, beginning with the window looking into one's yard, and going on to list refuges, sanctuaries, etc. There is a state by state list of best birding sites, but no list for Canada. In addition, there is a section on tours, with advice on how to choose a suitable tour.

There is a glossary at the end of the book, and six appendices listing zoos and natural history museums, specifications for bird houses, birds' favourite plants, official state birds, "Rare Bird" telephone numbers, equipment manufacturers, and the 718 North American species.

As this is a soft-covered book, it is less expensive, and its black-and-white photographs of birds and birdwatchers and its chatty text make it more attractive to the novice birdwatcher. — Reviewed by *Lois Clark*, 403 - 1233 Fairfield Road, Victoria, B.C. V8V 3B4.

BOOK LIST AVAILABLE

The Blue Jay Bookshop has published an extensive, 37 page list of natural history books and records. Copies are available from Box 1121, Regina, S4P 3B4 for \$1.00. With the list you receive a credit note for that amount good for purchases over \$6.00.